



Coconino County Sheriff's Office

Bill Pribil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Date: November 16, 2009

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Burglary/Theft Ring Identified and Suspects Arrested

Flagstaff, AZ –Northern Arizona law enforcement agencies identified and arrested several subjects after stolen property was located at a home in Payson. The property was connected to residential burglaries in the Forest Lakes area.

Coconino County Sheriff's deputies had been investigating three burglaries to summer homes in the Forest Lakes subdivision. The burglaries occurred between late September and early November. A possible lead was developed while coordinating with US Forest Service law enforcement officers from the Apache Sitgreaves and Tonto National Forests who were investigating illegal camping in the Forest Lakes area. The information led investigators to a home in the 700 block of Mazatzal Circle in the city of Payson.

On November 10, 2009 a United States Forest Service Officer, assisted by members of the Gila County Narcotics Task Force, and the Payson Police Department contacted several people at the Payson home and located a stolen ATV, large screen TV, handgun and DVD player taken from two homes in Forest Lakes. They arrested David S. Chovanec (age 41) of Payson for possession of stolen property and false information; Robert W. Caruso (age 40) of Payson for possession of a stolen handgun and weapons misconduct; Steven A. Duncan (age 47) of Strawberry for possession of stolen property; Martha L. Deason (age 46) of Payson for possession of stolen property; and Anna L. Oates (age 42) of Payson and Paul L. Gilbert (age 38) of for outstanding arrest warrants.

On November 11, 2009, officers from Coconino, Gila and Navajo County Sheriff's Offices, Payson Police Department, Gila County Narcotics Task Force and United States Forest Service served a search warrant at the Payson home the following day and recovered a substantial amount of property stolen from area burglaries. Officers observed numerous other items of outdoor gear, personal clothing and property and tools believed to be stolen. The majority of the property was unidentifiable as to ownership.

The Northern Arizona law enforcement community would like to remind citizens to record and mark all items of value to assist in later identification if it becomes necessary.

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